HOME & DESIGN
A TIMES OF INDIA PUBLICATION

TRENDS

VOLUME 9 NO 2

THE MAKING OF MINIMALISM

NUPUR SHAH & SAAHIL PARIKH UNRAVEL ITS MANY DEFINITIONS

A WAY WITH WOODWORK

VINCENT ROY

SPACES BY

Bhadri & Snehal Suthar
Diwakar Chintala
Rajesh Sheth
Shilpa & Sameer Balvally
Srijit Srinivas
Suchi Vora
and more...

VISIT…

CONTENTS

Only Books Magazine

09
DESIGN IN CONTEXT
Handpicked products that blur the lines between art and functionality

FORM AND FUNCTION

17 SPECTACLE
Transformative public interventions that alter perceptions and neighbourhoods

BUILDING CONVERSATIONS

18 COVER STORY
Nupur Shah and Saahil Parikh of We Design Studio embrace many definitions of simplicity through their work, marking their decade-long run with minimalism that's only gotten bolder

24 SPOTLIGHT
Pondicherry-based cabinetmaker Vincent Roy of Wood'n Design skilfully fuses tradition with modernism in his products

ON THE COVER
Nupur Shah and Saahil Parikh
Image: Vidhi Thakur

INDIA'S FIRST CURATED LUXURY LIVING SHOW **IS COMING TO BANGALORE!**

Only Books Magazine

TEJAS
AUTOMATION | LIGHTING | HOME CINEMA

PRESENTS

A Times Group Initiative
Dcode

CURATED BY
Shernavaz Bharucha

SOUTH EDITION 2021

HOME & DESIGN TRENDS

TO PARTICIPATE, COLLABORATE AND KNOW MORE,
WRITE TO US AT DCODE@WWM.CO.IN
FOLLOW US @_DCODE

CONTENTS

Only Books Magazine

SCULPTED SPACES
Residential

26 CALLING FOR CALM
Built on a skewed plot, this home by Srijit Srinivas - ARCHITECTS makes a serene, elegant addition to its surroundings

29 IN STEP WITH NATURE
The Grid Architects orients this home towards nature by infusing it with earthy simplicity

32 FAMILIAL TIES
Studio Osmosis designs a duplex for a music-loving family, with elements of warmth and familiarity

35 AHEAD OF THE CURVE
A confluence of modern and traditional elements forms the crux of this apartment by Suchi Vora

Commercial

38 EDGE OVER AVERAGE
Designer's Circle refreshes the bare-bones palette of this office with subtle lifts to the ordinary

41 UNBOXED AND UNBOUND
Studio Chintala solidifies its philosophy of simplicity with honesty in its rooftop glass office

CALL FOR ENTRY

Only Books Magazine

ARCHITECTS

INTERIOR DESIGNERS

PRODUCT DESIGNERS

LIGHT DESIGNERS

PHOTOGRAPHERS

TEJAS

AUTOMATION | LIGHTING | HOME CINEMA

PRESENTS

TRENDS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2021

FOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

DECADE SPECIAL

ENTER NOW!

www.trendsawards.in

@trendsmagind @trendideas @TRENDSMagIndia www.trendsawards.in

HOME & DESIGN
TRENDS

High-end Indian and International Homes, Extraordinary Architects & Designers, Best in Product Designs, Celebrated Guest Columnists, Latest Commercial Spaces, New Properties and more. Your authoritative guide to architecture and design is now on the web.

FOLLOW US ON
Home & Design TRENDS
trendsmagind
TrendsMagIndia

E-MAGS AVAILABLE ON

zinio™ MAGZTER JioMags

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DEEPAK LAMBA

EDITOR IN CHIEF
RONITAA ITALIA

Associate Editor	Avril Noel D'Souza
Senior Features Editor	Tina Thakrar
Content Producer	Radhika Shenoi
Deputy Art Director	Shalaka Shinde
Senior Graphic Designer	Anushree Kumar
Senior Editorial Coordinator	Harshal Wesavkar
Chief Financial Officer	Subramaniam S.
Head Human Resources	Meghna Puthawala
Content Studio Vice President	Vidyut Patra
Printer & Publisher	Sunil Wuthoo
Head Marketing- Head Digital Solutions	Priyadarshi Banerjee
Marketing Manager	Chandni Chopra

SALES HEAD
SUNITA QUADROS
sunita.quadros@wwm.co.in

BRAND SOLUTIONS

WEST
Mumbai
Vice President
- Brand Solutions & Business Head
- Femina Salon & Spa
Gautam Chopra - 9820181757
gautam.chopra@wwm.co.in
Pune
Aditi Shrivastava – 9960163182
aditi.shrivastava@wwm.co.in

SOUTH
Vice President South
& Business Head - Femina Tamil
Pravin Menon – 9840323246
pravin.menon@wwm.co.in

EAST
Assistant Vice President
Alka Kakar – 9830331780
alka.kakar@wwm.co.in
Kolkata
Bijoy Choudhury – 9830187067
bijoy.choudhury@wwm.co.in

NORTH
Vice President -
Brand Solutions & Sales Head -
Long Form Content
Anjali Rathor
anjali.rathor@wwm.co.in

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Asha Kulkarni, Manager Marketing
asha.kulkarni@wwm.co.in
Call: 18001210005 (All India toll free number)

Senior Manager, Subscription
Sakshi Kate – sakshi.kate@timesgroup.com

For subscription, visit: mags.timesgroup.com/home-trends.html
SMS: TRNDSUB to 58888
Mail: subscriptions.wwm@wwm.co.in
Call: 18001210005 (All India toll free number)

Worldwide Media Pvt. Ltd.

Printed and published by Sunil Wuthoo for and on behalf of Worldwide Media Pvt. Ltd. The Times of India Building, 4th floor, Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai 400001 and printed at Rajhans Enterprise, No. 134, 4th Main Road, Industrial Town, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560044, India.

The publisher makes every effort to ensure that the magazine's contents are correct. However, we accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions. Unsolicited material, including photographs and transparencies, is submitted entirely at the owner's risk and the publisher accepts no responsibility for its loss or damage.
All material published in Home & Design Trends is protected by copyright and unauthorized reproduction in part or full is forbidden.

CIN: U22120MH2003PTC142239

ANNOUNCING

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

DESIGN COUNCIL

THE AID THINK TANK

Brought to you by

ET Edge

An Economic Times Initiative

Powered by

HOME & DESIGN TRENDS

GoodHomes INDIA

@trendsmagind
@trendideas
@TRENDSMagIndia

@goodhomesmagazine
@goodhomesmagazineindia
@goodhomesindia
www.goodhomes.co.in

So much has changed about the work we do, and how we do it, in these last few months – and while I always insist on looking ahead, I do think that keeping a timely eye over the shoulder helps show you how far you've come.

Only Books Magazine

Now, more than ever, we realise how important it is to do our thing, to be authentic to who we are, to be mindful of the immediate environment as well as the world we live in, personally as well as professionally. Because otherwise, what's the point? We've seen the beginning of a whole new "wave" of living and being. As the world shifted gears and moved into WFH mode, everything shifted – our choices, our manners, our expectations, our behaviours, and naturally, our home and work environments.

What I found most incredible during this period were the inferences, the acknowledgements and the interactions I had with people from the industry. I have to say, I am so very proud to be working with some of the most helpful, most driven people I have ever had the good fortune to meet. Today, I would like to tip my hat to every single member of the architectural and interiors design fraternity. If there ever was even the slightest doubt in my mind about what I am doing with my life and where it's taking me, I now have the answers that I need – for the present moment, at least. And haven't we all learnt that that's all that matters? The here, and now.

Ronitaa R. Italia
Editor in Chief

DESIGN IN CONTEXT

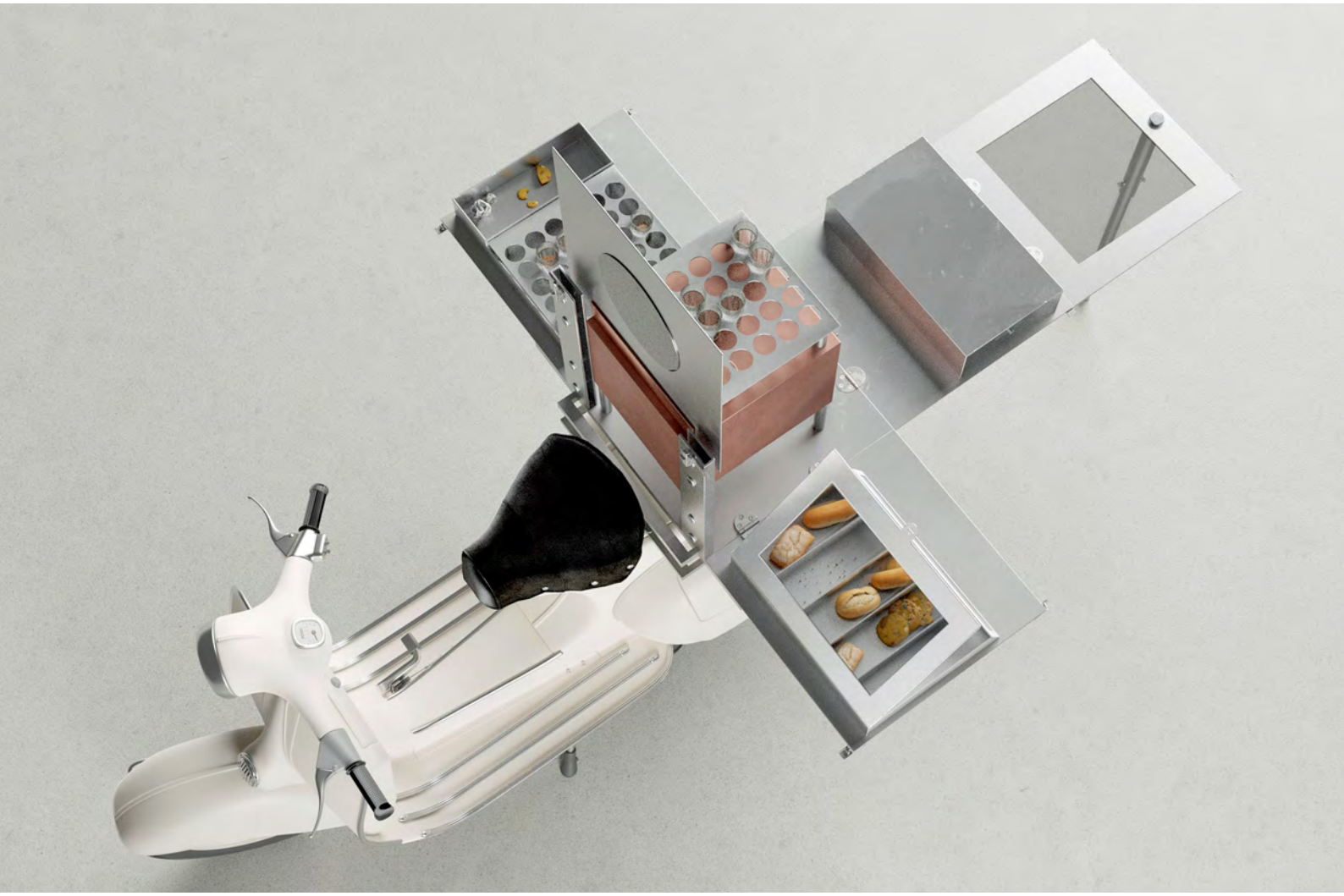
Products where design blurs the lines between art and functionality

Text **TINA THAKRAR**

IMAGE: ERIK LEFVANDER

POUFED LIKE A DONUT

The Boa Pouf by Sabine Marcelis marks several firsts - it is her inaugural design for design brand Hem, her first foray into soft form furniture, introduces an advanced shape-knitting technique to the design world, and is the first in a potentially wider collection of seating pieces that embrace a unique O shape. The Boa Pouf is an inviting, foam-filled lounge seat upholstered in melange wool, and developed using a rare process that eliminates all visible seams or ridges. The production process was challenging, and took two years and multiple prototypes to perfect, but has resulted in a seamless donut shape that's complete and finite. A result of Marcelis' fascination with the donut shape, the sink-worthy, sturdy pouf can seat multiple people on its ring, and can be used as an ottoman, stool, or extra seating. ▶



TIME FOR TEA

Developed for Hyderabad-based cafe chain Chaikahani, Chaigaadi is the world's tiniest portable tea stall, designed by The BILLBOARDS Collective. Besides packing in a boiler, billing counter, partial table and seating, snack station, and detachable shelves and racks in its compact 1.5sqft frame, Chaigaadi also modernises the authentic experience of a tea stall. Essentially, Chaigaadi is a movable vehicle with a copper and stainless steel box that opens up to reveal all the required amenities of a conventional cafe typology packed within every inch of its design. Additional features include provision for a fire extinguisher, a space for branding, a wastebin area, and a projection to hold the seating while in transit. ▶

ROUNDED TRIANGLES

The extensive new P.O.V collection is a family of wooden tables in beech, oak and American walnut, with a statement organic table base that looks different from every angle. Developed by TON in collaboration with German design duo kaschkasch, the range contains almost 70 pedestal-table combinations as well as a stackable dining stool. The highlight of these tables is their rounded triangular base, designed by joining three identical bent plywood forms. While the conical base remains the same for all tables, their height differs, as do their round and square tabletops. Their simplicity and versatility makes them suitable for use in all kinds of settings, whereas the expertise in woodwork of the designers and the producer ensures that the tiniest details are handcrafted with precision. ▶

IMAGES: MARTIN CHUM

FROM WASTE TO WANT

An exploration of how life first came to be, the Raw Earth-Skeleton collection is a range of lamps in three shapes and colours. Designed by Nangzao of the Bentu Design Group, the lights use soil, and human and industrial waste as their material, drawing up a cycle that ultimately reduces waste. By adding naturally biodegradabale plant fibres and moulding it with modern technology, the design team built the strength and sustainability of the lamp, making it suitable for long-term use, after which it can be safely returned back to earth. The production process, which is a non-fired, raw earth technique, reduces energy emissions and damage to nature, while allowing the material to remain naturally course and authentic. ▶

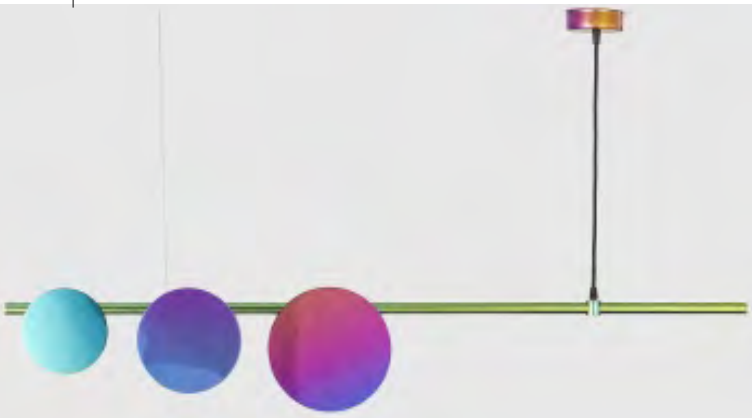
SIGNATURE STAMP

The Tiss-Tiss collection of furniture by French-Japanese duo Ak+Arnaud Cooren makes fresh strides in immortalising traditional hand weaving and stitching. Comprising nine works - chairs, a dining table, bedside tables, stools, a bench and lamps - the collection is primarily cast in aluminium, which has the texture of sewn stitches. The imprints, resembling a piece of stretched-out linen fabric, soften the rigid metal plates onto which they've been etched. The design is minimalist and captures every intricate detail, which is the result of a special sand-casting technique that took the Coorens almost four years to develop. ▶

IMAGE: MARK COCKSEDGE

RIDING THE WAVE

Multidisciplinary architecture and design firm Intrigue Designs Studio + Lab has recently introduced its new furniture arm entitled Vakr. Their maiden collection, Lehar, is inspired by the shape and form of a soft material when weight and pressure is applied onto it. The pieces, which include a coffee table, end table and console, are reinterpretations of forms that yield to force until they reach a comfortable stable point. Crafted mainly from rattan and wood, the collection combines old and new techniques to create timeless furniture pieces, with a strong sustainable and handcrafted edge. ▶



GLEAM AND GLOW

Mumbai-based furniture and lighting design studio Hatsu has unveiled its newest, most luminescent range of furniture so far, called the Iridescent collection. The quirky, dramatic pieces - a lamp, and coffee, console and side tables - have been crafted in simple stainless steel, which is coated with a layer of titanium oxide that reflects light to reveal of rainbow of radiant hues. Black-stained teakwood adds a tinge of earthiness, but steers clear of interfering with its brilliant colour play.▶

REDUCED FOR REFINEMENT

Designed by Daniel Schofield and manufactured by Mor, the Allay chair is as simple as they come. Devoid of frills and high on solidity, this chair takes an unadulterated look at familiarity and minimalism. "If you ask a kid to draw a lounge chair, they would draw something similar to this," says Schofield. The seat offers the user an embracive shape that allows them to relax and be part of conversations and happenings around them. A mix of hand and machine craft, the oakwood chair was designed by means of subtraction, to reveal a form that confident and calming, and homely and honest. **H&DT**

SPECTACLE

Transformative public interventions that alter perceptions and neighbourhoods

Text **TINA THAKRAR**

IMAGES: RAITT LIU

COSMETEA POP-UP SHOP BY NAX ARCHITECTS
SHANGHAI, CHINA

Once a steamed dumpling shop on the 100-year-old Yuyuan Road in Shanghai, Cosmetea Pop-up Shop is a retail and exhibition space that encapsulates the brand philosophy of the tea cosmetics brand. Straddling the past and the present, the design team created a 'time tunnel' with stainless steel mirrors, LED string lights, and a large window to connect the outdoors to the indoor spatial experience. The tunnel has a series of circles and a glass floor that imparts the feeling of passing through a wormhole, and the sides have wall cabinets for product displays and storage. With creative, visual and sensory aspects that reinforce this social and spatial experiment, the intervention helps not only carve out the brand message, but also establish a connect between the city, nature and people. H&DT

MOOD FOR MINIMALISM

Nupur Shah and **Saahil Parikh** embrace many definitions of simplicity through their work, marking their decade-long run with minimalism that's only gotten bolder

Text **TINA THAKRAR** *Profile images* **VIDHI THAKUR**

In the last decade, a lot has changed for Nupur Shah and Saahil Parikh of Mumbai-based We Design Studio. In 2011, they had just moved back to Mumbai after studying and working in London, and were poised to introduce their new firm to the country. From learning about the intricacies of budgeting and topography in their very first project in Alibag that year, to now pulling off houses are large as 20,000sqft with ease, the duo has found growth, learning and an inherent sense of enjoyment, every step of the way.

This year, We Design Studio completes 10 years, with a robust portfolio of projects – apartments, private homes and villas in cities and towns across the country. Evidently, their forte has been residences, both large and small, all of which have been infused with their signature austerity, restraint and orderliness in design. For them, richness lies not in expensive materials and bold colours, but in soothing experiences and clear expressions. This affinity for simplicity comes naturally, but what truly defines their work is an impartiality to the different projections and interpretations of that simplicity.

(Right) Saahil Parikh and Nupur Shah of We Design Studio

"Essentially, we are not a form-driven practice; we encourage the bottom-up approach. We don't start our projects with a vision of the end product, instead, we're more invested in the means to the end. Form and function are in step, they aren't necessarily one before the other. What's most important for us is for the project to be a response to the inhabitants, their sensibilities and lifestyles, and even how they think and feel. Each process is a collaboration – between us and the client, as well as our vendors, consultants and contractors. It's a puzzle that fits together only when everyone plays their role well," explains Saahil.

To identify their part in this puzzle, Nupur and Saahil first had to chalk out their individual and joint approaches to architecture. Their inclination towards the subject, however, began when they were very young – Saahil, through his Legos and numerous building blocks, Nupur, by spending summers marvelling at models at her architect uncle's office. Since the inclination and fascination with architecture was apparent, they simply decided to follow it through.

They both studied at the Academy of Architecture in Mumbai, followed by stints with Bijoy Jain and Kapil Gupta, before moving to London where Saahil pursued his Master's degree at the AA School of Architecture. Both worked at Zaha Hadid Architects before deciding, on impulse one morning, to return to India and set up We Design Studio.

> "We don't start our projects with a vision of the end product. Instead, we're more invested in the means to the end. Form and function are in step, they aren't necessarily one before the other.
>
> – Saahil Parikh, *Co-founder and Principal Architect, We Design Studio*

IMAGE: PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA

(Above) A Mashkoor Raza piece looks over the informal living area of this residence
(Right) A double curved surface finished in textured paint defines this dining area

IMAGE: KUNAL BHATIA

"Our time working with various architects with such vastly different portfolios set the base for our work. The degrees were an introduction to the discipline, but the first few years after that were critical to how our thinking evolved. However, we always wanted to work for ourselves; it's where we derive the most satisfaction. From the exposure we had, we developed a very specific and honed ability to respond to spatial problems, and that is now the foundation of our studio," reveals Nupur.

That they delight in their job is perceptible, as is their hunger for growth in the numerous times they refer to themselves as "still a budding studio". Their mainstay so far has been residential projects; they'll soon be handing over two 18,000sqft homes each in Bangalore and Anand, and have started work on a 20,000sqft house in Pawna in Pune district. "This current crop of projects has taught us a lot, about ourselves and about architecture. Since they were located outside of Mumbai, we've learnt to overcome the hurdle of distance by controlling things remotely. We'd love to scale up now, with public projects like schools and resorts."

IMAGE: PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA

> We build with sensitivity, and it reflects in our aesthetic, planning and material palette. This premise doesn't change, no matter the context.
>
> – Nupur Shah, *Co-founder and Principal Architect, We Design Studio*

In terms of challenges and how they dealt with them, these are all a far cry from the first Alibag project, which was built on a steep incline, within a tight budget. But from the get-go, they've retained their propensity to reduce their carbon footprint as far as possible. "Fundamentally, we are a rooted practice. Sustainability to us means a space that doesn't require a lot of resources to build and maintain, uses locally available materials and skills, and employs organic temperature control techniques. We build with sensitivity, and it reflects in our aesthetic, planning and material palette. This premise doesn't change, no matter the context."

IMAGE: KUNAL BHATIA

(Above) A custom-built king-size four poster bed lies at the heart of this master bedroom. **(This image)** This bathroom acts as an extension of the adjoining walk-in wardrobe.

> From the exposure we had, we developed a very specific and honed ability to respond to spatial problems, and that is now the foundation of our studio.
>
> – Saahil Parikh, *Co-founder and Principal Architect, We Design Studio*

IMAGE: KUNAL PRATIK

IMAGE: PHOTOGRAPHIX INDIA

(Above) The dining and living areas, finished in limestone and recycled Burma teak, open onto a large deck overlooking the Arabian Sea. **(This image)** The living room, finished in shades of white, anchors the bedroom wing on the North to the service wing on the South.

Here's another thing that hasn't changed – their work dynamic. They prefer to work on each project together, and their similar backgrounds and thought processes certainly egg this along. From envisioning the project to watching it being built and handed over, they remain aligned through it all. Along the way, they've also revelled in how their projects have prompted a shift in the user's perspective towards better living, and how they've evolved as individuals and as a practice. Design has become the vehicle for their journey as architects, partners and individuals, and they've driven it with the same sense of balance, vigour and open-mindedness as they did a decade ago. H&DT

IN GOOD LIGHT

Renowned for creating state-of-the-art lighting pieces for global markets, **Rohnel** is a leading supplier for table and floor lamps

Clockwise from below left: Varun Rohra, Founder and Managing Director, Rohnel Building Solutions; lighting fixtures by Rohnel

Ask any designer, and they'll emphasise the importance of lighting, both natural and artificial, to give any space the brightness and brilliance it deserves. With an in-depth understanding of this, which also stems from a likeness for Indian craftsmanship and the science of good lighting, intelligent lighting brand Rohnel has emerged as a frontrunner in smart and aesthetically-sound floor and table lighting pieces.

Rohnel was founded by entrepreneur Varun Rohra, whose primary aim was to transform Indian homes into cosy, inviting spaces that can attribute their splendour to the use of right lighting. The brand was founded in 2013, in a small, one-room workshop in Chennai. Today, it manufactures and supplies luxury lamps to a robust client-base in South Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Combining engineering and design, Rohnel creates minimal yet striking floor and table lamps for residential and commercial spaces. The pieces range from directional to decorative and accent lighting, and the intricate designs have found acceptance in national and international markets. Since Rohnel crafts its own products, the selection of designs and materials is extensive, allowing customers and clients to find the ideal designs to align with their spaces.

PAST TO PRESENT

Pondicherry-based cabinetmaker **Vincent Roy** of **Wood'n Design** skilfully fuses tradition with modernism in his designs

Left: Vincent Roy, Founder, Wood'n Design
Above: Harmony day bed. Handwoven cushion by Cedric Courtin with Raffia Paper
Below: Thonet chairs

IMAGE: DAMIEN ROY

There are three things that furniture craftsman Vincent Roy loves deeply - India, handcrafted design, and working with wood. At his Pondicherry-based furniture design studio, Wood'n Design, he gets an opportunity to explore all three. Since setting up his workshop and studio in 2013, he's steadily gained ground in terms of recognition and appreciation for his artisanal products across the country, and for reimagining handmade timber furniture for the modern Indian home.

A cabinetmaker, or 'ebenist' in French, Vincent first ventured into professional design at sixteen years old. A student who preferred to learn outside the classroom, he spent five days at a week working for a company and one day a week studying design and style.

He first came to India at the age of 21, after specialising in restoration of antique furniture, to work as an apprentice for French carpenter Patrick Lafourcade at his workshop in Pondicherry. "He told me over the phone that I would get a local salary of Rs. 5,000 per month. I agreed and came over. I spent a year working with 30 great Tamil craftsmen who taught me a lot of tricks, and how to develop a good eye, a good hand and a good mind." Vincent's formative ideas about the beauty of handcrafted design originated here, as did his love for chairs.

Below: Bali chairs. Interiors by Ali Baldiwala, Baldiwala Edge
Below right: Arctic bed. Interiors by Faisal Manzur, Faisal Manzur Design Studio
Bottom: Lucy Sideboard. Interiors by Emilie Mauran Roy, EMR Architecture

After a few more years of experience in Australia and Cambodia, Vincent was drawn back to India, and decided to set up shop in Pondicherry. "I missed India terribly. I wanted to set up my own workshop, but I didn't know how much work it would take to run a studio; to be not only a designer and craftsman, but also a businessman, which is something I am still learning. We always want to be independent and make our own choices, but we often forget how difficult and lonely it is to be an entrepreneur," he says, with refreshing honesty.

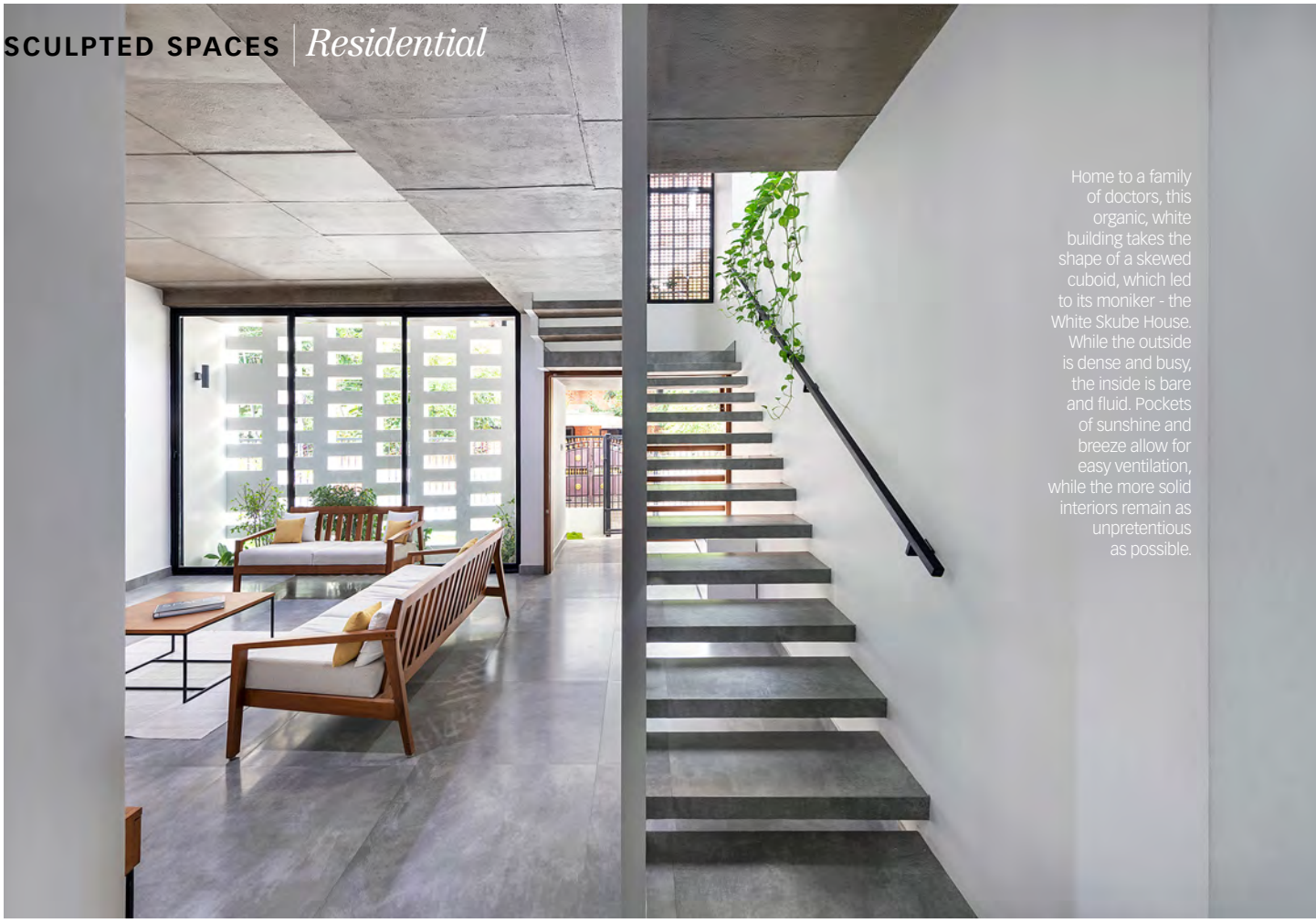
Vincent's material of choice is reclaimed wood - usually old Burma teak beams retrieved from demolished houses, dating back almost 200 years. He's the only non-local in his workshop, and although his inspirations come from Scandinavian and French designers from the 50s, his approach is somewhat India-centric, with a twist. His product range has also expanded from chairs and lounges, to tables, cabinets, beds and even lamps.

At the Wood'n Design workshop, every day is an exploration of techniques and processes. There's a new workshop in the works, as well as collaborations with other designers and craftsmen. Along with fellow cabinetmaker Bram Rouws, Vincent has set up a collective platform called Dimensions for the carpenter community to collaborate, support and thrive. He takes pride in his work, and especially in using ancestral knowledge to make new strides in the design world. H&DT

CALLING FOR CALM

*Built on a skewed plot in a busy Trivandrum neighbourhood, this home by **Srijit Srinivas - ARCHITECTS** makes a serene, elegant addition to its surroundings*

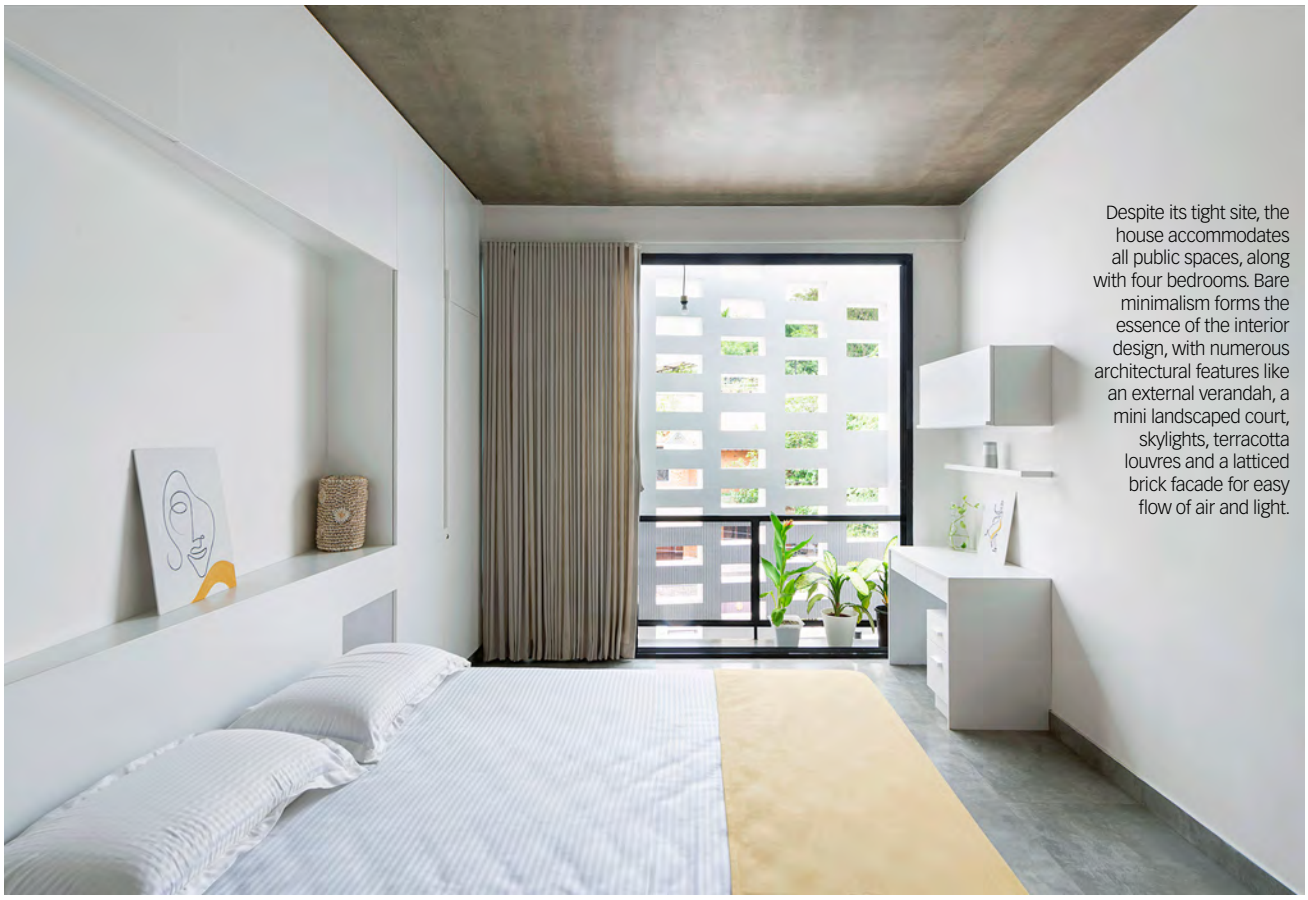
Text **TINA THAKRAR** *Images* **JUSTIN SEBASTIAN**



Home to a family of doctors, this organic, white building takes the shape of a skewed cuboid, which led to its moniker - the White Skube House. While the outside is dense and busy, the inside is bare and fluid. Pockets of sunshine and breeze allow for easy ventilation, while the more solid interiors remain as unpretentious as possible.

"The design brief from the clients for this second home was a requirement for 'something special'. The shape of the restricted plot allowed for an organic skewed cuboid form to emerge."

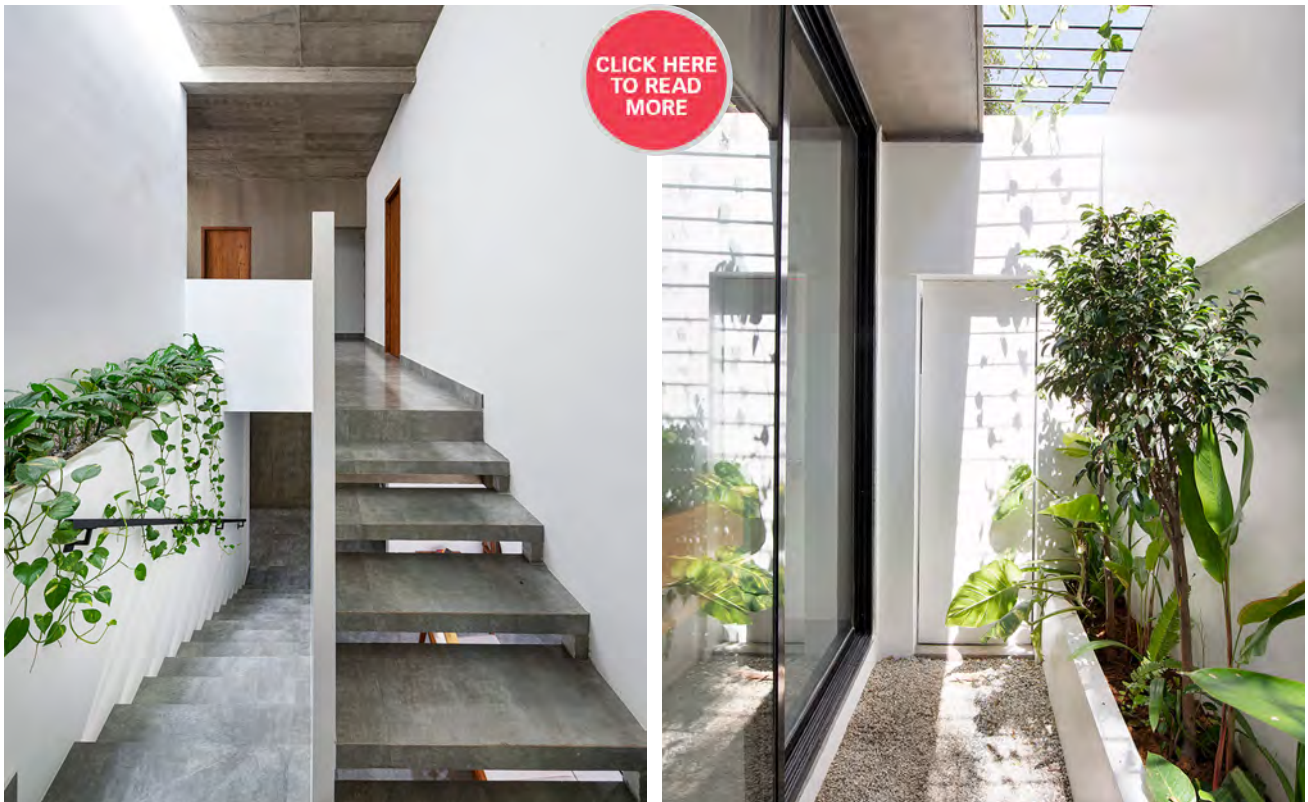
– Srijit Srinivas, *Founder and Lead Architect, Srijit Srinivas - ARCHITECTS*



Despite its tight site, the house accommodates all public spaces, along with four bedrooms. Bare minimalism forms the essence of the interior design, with numerous architectural features like an external verandah, a mini landscaped court, skylights, terracotta louvres and a latticed brick facade for easy flow of air and light.

"The ceiling, with its exposed concrete finish, and the floors follow a calming grey palette. The walls have been painted white for contrast."

– Srijit Srinivas, *Founder and Lead Architect, Srijit Srinivas - ARCHITECTS*



IN STEP WITH NATURE

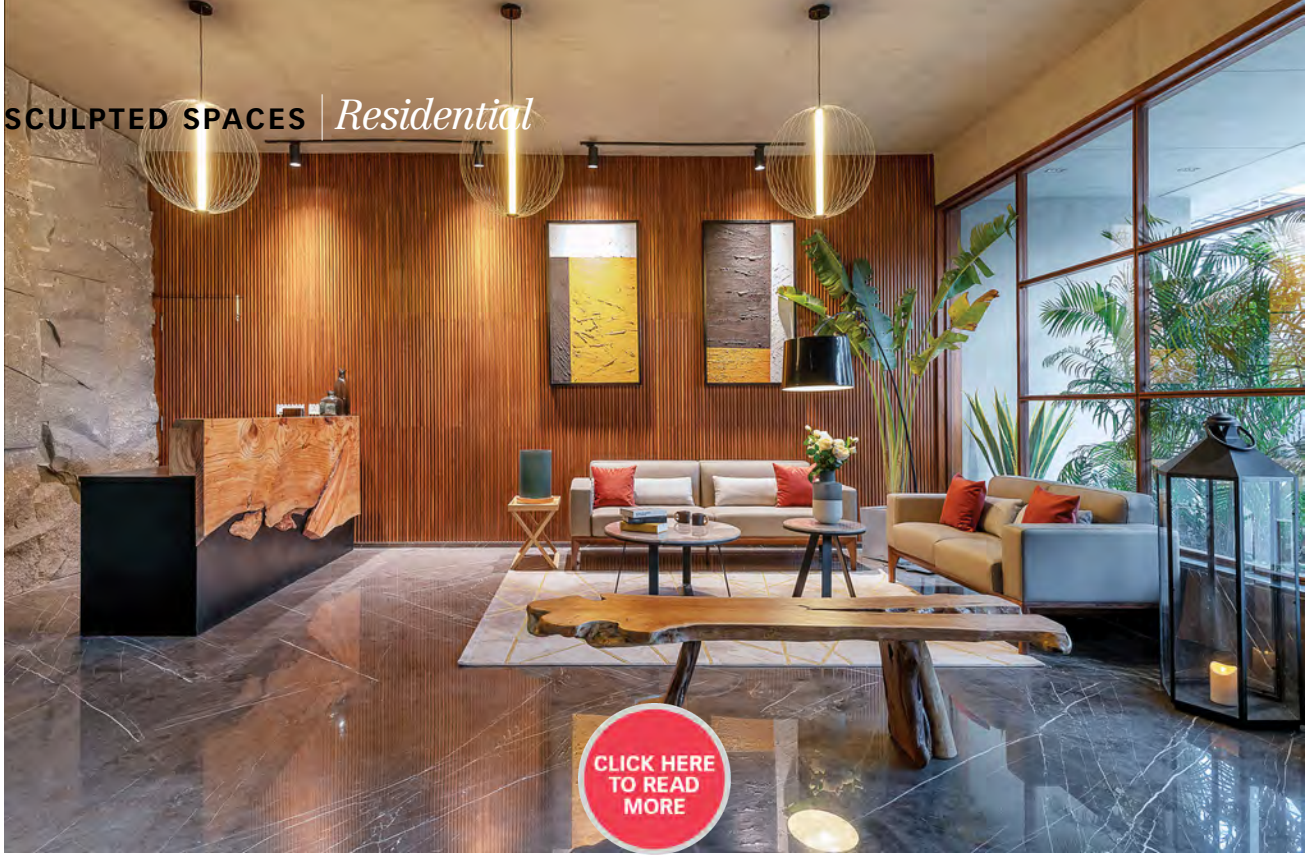
tHE gRID Architects *orients this Ahmedabad home towards nature by infusing it with elements of earthy simplicity*

Text **TINA THAKRAR** *Images* **SEBASTIAN ZACHARIAH**

Spanning an area of 2,390sqft, this apartment receives copious amounts of sunlight through the day, and boasts green vistas all around. Designers Snehal and Bhadri Suthar decided to leverage this aspect, and make it the crux of their design.

"For this apartment, our endeavour, as always, was to create a certain rootedness of the living environment to the Earth for a greater sense of wellbeing and harmony."

– Bhadri Suthar, *Principal Designer, tHE gRID Architects*



"Raw wood, raw stone and lots of greens have been used to create organic warmth, with vibrant colours and textures injecting the requisite energy."

– Snehal Suthar, *Principal Designer, tHE gRID Architects*

The spatial plan is open and fluid, increasing scope for interactions. Earthy materials, soft furnishings and textiles have been used in every room, in varied organic compositions.

FAMILIAL TIES

***Studio Osmosis** designs a duplex in Mumbai for a music-loving family, with elements of warmth and familiarity that bond the inhabitants in their everyday life*

Text **TINA THAKRAR** *Images* **YADNYESH JOSHI**

"The premise of the design inspiration was the family itself. The home celebrates their bond; music runs in their veins, and festivities, food and travel form a large part for their lives."

– Shilpa Jain Balvally, *Principal Architect, Studio Osmosis*

Executed and completed in the last year, this 1,800sqft duplex encourages bonding within the family through every detail. Natural light is abundant and unhindered views of greenscapes ensure a strong connect with the outside world.

"We opted for a romantic and celebratory yet elegant palette, with natural light and greens adding to the vibe and invoking the simple joys of their daily life."

– Sameer Balvally, *Principal Architect, Studio Osmosis*

Colours like pastel pink, rose gold, sage green and taupe form the warm palette. The highlight of the home is a double-height staircase conservatory with a small, floodlit turf for relaxed rejuvenation sessions.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

"The idea was to have neutral colour tones with soothing pastels to create an alluring and welcoming look, with classic Art Deco influences reinterpreted in a contemporary way.

– Shilpa Jain Balvally, *Principal Architect, Studio Osmosis*

AHEAD OF THE CURVE

A confluence of modern and traditional elements, and private and open-planned spaces forms the crux of this fuss-free family apartment by ***Suchi Vora***

Text **TINA THAKRAR**
Images **CHINMAY MORGAONKAR**

"We were tasked with creating a minimal, urban space with a touch of traditionalism. This home offers intimate pauses of solitude in a comfortable space, where you can shut yourself off after a hectic day."

– Suchi Vora, *Founder, Suchi Vora Architecture Collaborative*

Polished concrete flooring, similar to the one found in traditional Indian temples, became the starting point for the design of this 3,300sqft home in Pune. It now forms the foundation for a material palette of oak veneer and brass, as well as soft pastel furnishings.

"We drew from the concept of arches, an element that is prosaic in traditional Indian architecture, and deconstructed it in various ways."

– Suchi Vora, *Founder, Suchi Vora Architecture Collaborative*

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

The living spaces all flow seamlessly into each other, with provisions for privacy when needed. This fluidity comes through not only in the layout but also in the use of material and colour, and how they maintain continuity from floor to ceiling, in every room.

EDGE OVER AVERAGE

*In this office designed by **Designer's Circle**, the bare-bones palette is freshened up with hints of colour and subtle lifts to the ordinary*

Text **EVITA ROCHE** *Images* **MAULIK PATEL**

Designed for a creative event management agency, this 2,540sqft office in Ahmedabad was livened up with pops of colour against a neutral grey and beige palette and an array of natural textures.

"This project allowed us to design an ergonomic workspace for the comfort and wellbeing of the staff. Moreover, designing a space for a creative agency let our creative juices flow too."

– Rajesh Sheth, *Founder, Designer's Circle*

The office comprises a reception area leading to open workstations, two private cabins, two lounges and a conference room.

CLICK HERE TO READ MORE

"The standout focal point of the space is the beautifully woven rattan ceiling and wooden framework. Down below, glass and wood partitions blend seamlessly in the hallways."

– Rajesh Sheth, *Founder, Designer's Circle*

UNBOXED AND UNBOUND

***Studio Chintala** solidifies its philosophy of simplicity with honesty in the design of its rooftop glass office*

Text **SNEHA SHAH** *Images* **RAMA MADHU GOPAL RAO**

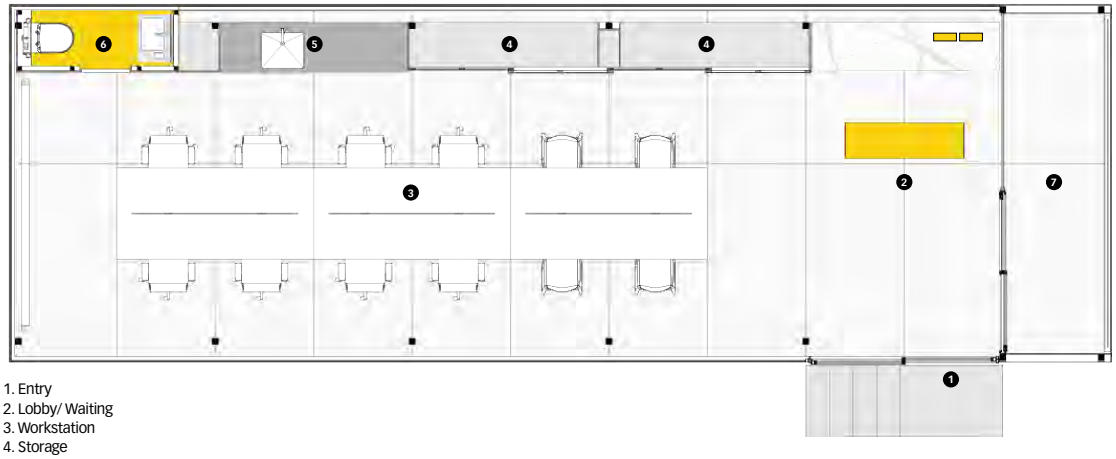
"We started by questioning the purpose of the studio and how the space can support that purpose. The answer was clear — the studio is a space where people design meaningful experiences and have fun along the way."

– Diwakar Chintala, *Principal Architect, Studio Chintala*

Built on the roof of a retail building in one of Bengaluru's bustling neighbourhoods, Studio Chintala's own workspace has clean, well-defined profiles.

"The studio had to be built as a 'kit-of-parts' in order to solve the logistical challenge of getting building materials onto the roof of a functioning retail building."

– Diwakar Chintala, *Principal Architect, Studio Chintala*



1. Entry
2. Lobby/ Waiting
3. Workstation
4. Storage
5. Pantry
6. Restroom
7. Balcony

The 700sqft office has a strong spatial and visual presence, with a transparent dialogue between the indoors and outdoors. Elevated on stilts, the box has a rectilinear design and a glass facade.

"While the project does not make a loud stylistic statement, it serves as the perfect setting for its users, and a great means to communicate the studio's design philosophy to clients."

– Diwakar Chintala, *Principal Architect, Studio Chintala*

HOME & DESIGN
TRENDS